

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 5 and 7 have been amended, claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled, and new claims 8, 9 and 10 have been added. No new matter has been added. The specification has also been amended to include references to the domestic and foreign priority documents as required by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 15, 2008.

Priority:

The Examiner asserts that Applicants have not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120, since the specific reference to the prior filed application has not been made in the first sentence of page 1 of the present specification.

However, it is submitted that since the Application Transmittal, the Declaration and Application Data Sheet filed on June 6, 2006 each include a reference that the present application is a 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application PCT/JP2004/018313 filed on December 8, 2004, each claim priority to Japanese patent application No. 2003/410518 filed on December 9, 2003, and each of which was duly recognized by the U.S. Patent Office in the Filing Receipt dated February 5, 2007, the above-noted amendments made to the specification to include such references meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 1.78(a).

Claim Objections:

Claims 2 and 3 stand objected to due to minor informalities, as noted by the Examiner at the bottom of page 3 of the Action. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to overcome this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of these claim objections is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claimed Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the respective base and intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 2, 3 and 5 have been amended into independent form and therefore are believed to be allowable. Also, claim 6 is believed to be allowable by its dependency on claim 5.

In addition, it is submitted that independent claim 7 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 2. As such, it is believed that independent claim 7 is also allowable.

Further, with regard to newly added independent claims 8-10, it is submitted that independent claims 8, 9 and 10 include the allowable features of claims 3, 5 and 6, respectively. As such, it is believed that new independent claims 8-10 are allowable as well.

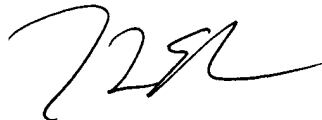
Accordingly, it is submitted that all of the remaining pending claims 2, 3 and 5-8, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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